

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (new): An extruder comprising:

a barrel having at least one axial bore extending to a downstream end of the barrel, said downstream end having a contact surface;

a cutting plate of a granulating unit, said cutting plate being received against said contact surface; and

a plurality of heating elements in said barrel in the immediate vicinity of said contact surface.

Claim 11 (new): An extruder as in claim 10 wherein the barrel comprises a plurality of axial barrel segments.

Claim 12 (new): An extruder as in claim 10 wherein the heating elements are heating cartridges.

Claim 13 (new): An extruder as in claim 12 wherein said barrel has continuous bores passing therethrough, said heating cartridges being received in said bores.

Claim 14 (new): An extruder as in claim 13 wherein said continuous bores are arranged in parallel pairs at right angles to each other to form a square in a plane transverse to said at least one axial bore.

Claim 15 (new): An extruder as in claim 10 wherein said at least one axial bore comprises a pair of overlapping axial bores which open in a channel having a cross section at said contact surface, said cutting plate having a feed opening with a cross section which is congruent with said cross-section of said channel.

Claim 16 (new): An extruder as in claim 15 comprising a plurality of axial barrel segments through which said axial bores extend from an inlet side of said barrel to said contact surface, said channel being located wholly in the barrel segment at the contact surface.

Claim 17 (new): An extruder as in claim 10 said barrel comprises a mounting recess in which said contact surface is located, said cutting plate having a volume, at least half of said volume being received in said recess.

Claim 18 (new): An extruder as in claim 17 wherein said recess and said plate each have radially facing surfaces which are in contact with each other.